

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Both Wells et al. and Takahashi teach fuel cell stacks with a plurality of fuel cells therein of interest.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art of record teach a fuel cell system/method of operating a fuel cell system wherein the system/method includes a plurality of fuel cells wherein a sensor is integrally installed with the fuel cells and includes a temperature sensor that detects the concentration of liquid fuel based on the voltage of the fuel cell system by an output of the temperature sensor. The temperature sensor includes a monitor cell having a polymer electrolyte membrane sandwiched by an anode and cathode wherein the inlets and outlets for the anode and the cathode, respectively, of the monitor cell communicate with the inlets and outlets of the anode and cathode, respectively, of the fuel cell system. The prior art of record does not include the claimed temperature sensor comprising the monitor cell which communicates with the anode and cathode outlets of the fuel cell system.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The following changes were agreed to in the application during the telephonic interview with applicant's representative on 18 June 2009:

Claim 18, line 3, --wherein at least one of the cells has-- is placed after "parallel,"

Claim 18, line 4, "in which" is deleted;

Claim 18, line 4, --which-- is placed after "cathode";

Claim 26, line 3, --wherein at least one of the cells has-- is placed after "parallel,"

Claim 26, line 4, "in which" is deleted;

Claim 26, line 4, --which-- is placed after "cathode";

Claim 27, line 3, --wherein at least one of the cells has-- is placed after "parallel,"

Claim 27, line 4, "in which" is deleted and

Claim 27, line 4, --which-- is placed after "cathode".

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 28 and 29 directed to an invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 28 and 29 have been cancelled.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John S. Maples whose telephone number is 571-272-1287. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John S. Maples/

John S. Maples
Primary Examiner
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JSM/6-19-2009